Inexpensive technology for the production of methane

1657. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report published in the Economic Times of 22nd February, 1995 to the effect that the Council of Science and Technology in Uttar Pradesh has developed a new inexpensive technology for the production of methane from effluent discharged by the distilleries;

(b) whether Government have attempted to ascertain the details thereof;

(c) if so, what is proposed to be done to promote the use of the technique; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the report has been seen by the Government. As per information obtained from the Council of Science and Technology, Uttar Pradesh, no new, inexpensive technology for production of methane has been developed by the Council.

(c) and (d) Does not arise. Sir.

Creation of a fund for the development of technology

1658. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to create a fund for the development of technology and its application in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) in what manner Government think that funding of technology will alleviate the ills of Indian science and contain the brain-drain?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Currently, 5 per cent Cess is levied on all payments made towards the import of technology under the Research and Development Cess Act, 1986. The proceeds of the Cess are firstly credited to the Consolidated Fund of India and the Central Government on appropriation by Parliament makes payment to Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) for being utilized for the proposes of Venture Capital Fund.

Government has decided to credit the proceeds of the Cess into a new Fund for Technology Development and Application, to be placed at the disposal of the Department of Science and Technology.

The new Fund is a step towards technology promotion as it provides opportunities to Indian scientists and technologists for commercialisation of indigenous technology and attempts to bridge the complementary strength in our S and T institutions and industrial enterprises. This, inturn, will help in containing the brain drain.

Findings of ISRO espionage investigation

1659. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI JOYANTA ROY:
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the finding of the investigations made into the alleged spying of secrets and documents in respect of Indian Space Research Organisation; and

(b) what further steps are being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATES IN THE DEPPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) The investigations in the case are in progress.

Conflicting reports on ISRO spy scandal

1650. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the conflicting reports in the press regarding ISRO spy scandal and if so, what are the facts in this regard.

(b) whether conflicting stand has been taken by the intelligence agencies in the matter and what is the role played by the Central agencies and the State Police; and

(c) what steps have been taken to plug the loopholes in the security system of the ISRO and to uphold the morale of the scientists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir However, the case is still under investigation to ascertain the full facts.

(b) There is no conflicting stand amongst the intelligence agencies in the matter. The case was earlier investigated by the State Police and is presently under investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

(c) Security instructions issued by Government are adopted for the safety and security of secret documents in Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). Review of the existing mechnisms for security in all the Centres and Units of Department of Space/ISRO has been initiated to strengthen the security measures.

The morale is not affected. The three major milestones planned for the year, Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle-D3 (PSLV-D3), Indian Remote Sensing (IRS-IC) Satellite and Indian National Satellite 2C (INSAT-2C), are progressing satisfactorily.

Revelations Pertaining to Cryogenic Deal Consequent on ISRO Espionage investigations

1661. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether investigations into the ISRO espionage case have revealed that Russia had cancelled the Cryogenic Engine Technology deal, not because of pressure from the US but due to leakage of its secret information, designs and drawings;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) how far the country remains away from cryogenic rocket engine technology and the development of this type of engines as a result of the setback after cancellation of the contract with Russia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) (a) and (b) The agreement entered into between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and GLAVKOSMOS of Russia in 1991 provided for the development and delivery of cryogenic stages for Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV), transfer of technology and training of Indian specialists to manufacture